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FREE HEADSTONES

Furnished by U. S. Government to mark graves of Revolutionary Soldiers.

A few years ago Congress passed a bill directing the War Department to furnish headstones free of charge laid down at the nearest freight depot for the unmarked graves of all soldiers who fought in any way for the United States.

In accordance with this Act of Congress the War Department is ready to send headstones upon request to any one who will locate the graves and prove the services of soldiers whether they fought in the Revolution, War of 1812, Mexican War, skirmishes with Indians or in any way bore arms in defense of the United States. The daughters of the American Revolution in this State have taken up the work of trying to find and mark forgotten and nameless graves of Revolutionary soldiers. By rescuing these names from oblivion and reviving memories and tradition of these brave men we pay them tardy honors which are well-deserved.

The circular of information issued by the War Department states that "upon application to the Quartermaster General, U. S. Army, headstones will be furnished for unmarked graves of soldiers, sailors and marines who served in the State Militia or the Army or Navy of the United States during any war whether regular or volunteer, and whether they died in the service or since their muster out or discharge therefrom. These headstones are of best American white marble, 39 inches long, 12 inches wide and 4 inches thick, the top slightly rounded and the portion of the stone which will be above the ground when set is sand rubbed; each headstone is inscribed with the name, rank (if above private), company and State regiment or other organization to which the deceased belonged, cut in relief within a sunken shield. No deviation can be made from these specifications which are prescribed by the Secretary of War and the law does not provide for any expenditure for fences or for any purpose except for the headstone as above described; neither is it lawful to make any money allowance in place of furnishing a headstone. Headstones will be shipped, freight prepaid by the Government, only to the nearest railroad station or steamboat landing; they will not be delivered to street addresses or to the cemetery."

Every D. A. R. Chapter in South Carolina should be earnestly and actively interested in this noble and praise-worthy work. Battles and skirmishes were fought all over the State from the mountains to the seaboard; the British and Tories invaded all portions of the country and almost every able-bodied man and youth had to join the militia in defense of homes and families; hence there are thousands of graves of Revolutionary soldiers within our borders. It will require much time, patience and careful investigation to find these graves and obtain all the necessary information, therefore Chapters should begin work at once. Notices should be inserted in the leading papers of each county calling attention to this liberality of the Government and asking assistance from every one who can give information. Country churchyards and plantation burying grounds must be examined; and all traditions thoroughly sifted for the truth which is almost sure to be found.

When the graves are located, the next step is to find some reliable person in the neighborhood who will consent to have the headstone set to his address and will agree

to put it in proper position when it arrives. This should be done before any application is made to the War Department for a headstone.

The services of the soldier must next be proved. Official proofs are necessary, taken from the records of this or other States, the United States pension office or the War Department. It is almost impossible to get information from the South Carolina records; they have never been indexed and the officials in charge of them are not yet ready to furnish any data. Some time ago "The State" published lists of Revolutionary soldiers, which were copied from the records through the courtesy of Secretary of State Gantt. These lists were arranged alphabetically but unfortunately their publication ceased with the letter G. These lists will be of aid in verifying the services of soldiers whose names begin with the first letters of the alphabet. A true copy of the roll of Sumter's Brigade was furnished by Mr. J. T. Gantt, while Secretary of State, to the Fourth Report of the National D. A. R. published by the Smithsonian Institute. This contains the names of hundreds of soldiers and will be of great assistance.

The Commissioner of pensions in the Department of the Interior at Washington will reply very promptly and fully to letters inquiring for the records of soldiers. It is better to write a separate letter for each soldier.

The War Department will reply to letters from Chapter Regents signed officially, giving the names of the Chapters.

After the services of the soldier have been proved, then write to the Quartermaster General, U. S. Army, and ask him for Application Blanks for headstones for soldier's graves. Fill out the blank exactly according to directions and return to the Quartermaster General. If it meets with his approbation then a card will be returned saying that "the application will be filled in its regular order. Requests are received for thousands of headstones annually and considerable time is required to accurately list the names for the printer, make proper record thereof, have the headstones cut, and lettered under contract as required by law and ship them by freight to places distributed all over the United States, where they are transferred to applicants. It is impracticable therefore for the Department to fix any definite date when these headstones will reach the points of delivery; but applicants are assured that the headstones requested by them will be supplied in every proper case and at the earliest possible date."

Experience has shown that it is generally twelve months before a stone is shipped, so Chapters should begin work immediately as the delays are many and vexatious.

Mrs. F. Louise Mayes,
Mrs. W. C. Kirkland,
Miss Kate Lilly Blue,
Com. on Revolutionary Graves,
S. C. N. A. R.

President Taft came very near being arrested the other day for picking flowers in the grounds of the Department of Agriculture. Even a President must keep off the grass in Uncle Jimmie Wilson's bailiwick.

When the New York papers showed a disposition to give undue publicity to the smuggling frauds of the sugar trust the trust promptly placed page advertisements in each of the dailies and the publicity ceased. The members of the sugar trust are diplomats, whatever else they may be.

GOLD MINES

IN DILLON DIRT.

One who Knows Says the Lands Round Dillon are Excellent for Trucking. Would Join Company, Purchase 500 Acres of Land and Engage in Trucking. Some Telegrams that Argue Eloquent for the Trucking Industry.

The article in the last issue of The Herald, "Trucker's Reaping Golden Harvest," has aroused some interest in the trucking industry around Dillon. Our people are beginning to find out that truck raising is a profitable industry and the chances are that the "Trucker's Association" referred to in The Herald will be formed before another season rolls round. Several gentlemen who have paid some little attention to the industry have expressed themselves as interested in the organization of a local association for experimental purposes and if as many as six can be induced to plant two acres of truck the industry can be made profitable as well as experimental. There is no doubt in The Herald's mind but that twelve acres of truck planted at the same time under the rules of an association will return a handsome profit on the investment. The idea is to plant entirely for shipment and not for local consumption and careful estimates show that 12 acres will produce enough of a certain vegetable to make up a car load for each shipment.

A gentleman who has been interested in Dillon real estate from the day the town was born and who still owns land around Dillon read the article in last week's Herald and gives the plan endorsement. He lives in a section where trucking has been made a profitable industry and having made a study of the industry his views on the subject are valuable. We refer to Capt. J. B. Edgerton, of Goldsboro, N. C., and take pleasure in publishing a letter from him on the subject which offers some valuable suggestions:

"I am sending you some telegrams showing what our beans are selling for. There is as good trucking land for strawberries, melons, asparagus, lettuce, peas and beans around the town of Dillon as there are in the south. If I were a younger man I would like to join a party of 5, 6, or 10 good men and buy 500 acres of land exclusively for this purpose and join them in a trucking business.

"In my little travels around the town of Dillon I have had my eye on some lands that I know are first class for trucking and I have wondered why some one did not go into this business.

"You understand that a man can raise a crop of peas or beans and make as much or more cotton on the same land, the same year, as if he had not planted it in peas or beans. You understand that he plants this crop early and at the proper time puts cotton between each row and makes as good crop of cotton as if he had not planted beans.

"My son-in-law last year made more cotton per acre in his bean field than he did where he did not plant beans, as the cotton later in the season gets the fertilizer from the bean vine crop."

Accompanying Col. Edgerton's letter were several telegrams from New York and Boston commission houses to Goldsboro truckers showing returns from bean shipments. The telegrams are printed below:

New York, May 26th, 1909.
Z. M. Jeffrys,
Goldsboro, N. C.
Wax beans sold two-fifty.

Phillipps & Son.
Boston, May 27, 1909.

E. J. Hester,
Goldsboro, N. C.
Seventy-three baskets beans received. Sold two-fifty.
Chapin Bros.

New York, May 27, 1909.
E. J. Hester,
Goldsboro, N. C.
Creech wax two-fifty. Sold green dollar seventy-five.
E. R. Brackett Co.

DR. HATCHER'S IMPRESSIONS.

Of Dillon and Latta as Told in an Article to the Religious Herald. The Able Divine Eloquent in His Praises of the People of the Two Towns.

In an article to the Religious Herald Dr. W. E. Hatcher writes as follows of Dillon and Latta:

"From Edgefield to Dillon was from the old to new Dillon has hardly attained its majority since the first shovel of dirt was lifted in its making, now, with its beautiful streets, its gleaming electric lights, its fresh and lovely, and even elegant homes, and its bustling and enterprising people, it feels some of the grandeur of a city. This was my second visit to Dillon, as was also my late meeting at Edgefield my second work there. I found Herbert A. Willis, a son of Orange county, Va., one of the multitudinous Willises of the Northern Piedmont, as the lately installed pastor of Dillon, and truly I have not seen for many months of Sundays a neater or better-braced fit than that of Willis and his new charge. Our meeting here is nearing its end, and the ingathering, while incomplete, has brought great joy to the church and to the town. It is already clear that the ranks of our Baptist people will be sensibly enlarged and the Sunday-school is mounting up to proportions never known before. It would be difficult to enumerate the visitors from many directions which have run in to get a taste of the meeting. The famous Joel Allen, the crowned chieftain among the money-raisers of South Carolina Baptists, lives here. He seems to rank easily as the first citizen, and while no longer the pastor of the church here, he is still one of its most valorous and inspiring leaders. Yesterday, Brother Willis drove me out to Latta, a young town seven miles off, and also a station on the Atlantic Coast Line railroad. In population it is 1,000 strong, and the Baptists are just completing one of the handsomest houses of worship in the State. It is simply magnificent; it cost the church something over \$100 per member to build it, and there is not to be a dollar's debt when they dedicate it. I uncover my brow in honor of a church so plucky, so enterprising, and so happy.

"Already my heart grows heavy at the thought of bowing myself out of Dillon. Of course, I am wedded to the Baptist folk of the community; I admire them and rejoice in them, and surely can never forget them, nor must I fail to mention the hospitality and the nobility of the community. I have heard that towns are not made, but that they grow. They made this one, and it is doing its own growing, and that in a great and beautiful way."

An Irishman was painting a house and working with great rapidity. Someone asked him why he was in such a rush. "I'm trying to get through," the Irishman replied: "before the paint gives out." — Ex

RANCKE-LANE.

Miss Aima Rancke, of Lumberton, Becomes the Bride of Mr. F. M. Lane, of Dillon S. C. A Beautiful Church Wedding.

Lumberton Robesonian:
One of the prettiest weddings ever solemnized in Lumberton took place at the Methodist church Tuesday evening when Miss Alma Roxanna, daughter of Mr. G. E. Rancke, of Lumberton, became the bride of Mr. Frederick Marvin Lane, a young farmer who lives near Dillon, S. C.

Nothing could have been prettier than the way in which the color scheme of green and white was expressed. A beautiful arch of white jasmine spanned the choir recess in rear of the pulpit, and ivy and potted ferns were banked in profusion within the chancel, from which a white pathway stretched down the center aisle to the front entrance, white streamers stretching down either side and across the entrance to this aisle.

A large crowd assembled to witness the ceremony, and before the appointed hour 8:30 o'clock, the church was filled to its capacity. Just before the bridal party entered Miss Lula Humphrey sang "Because God Made Thee Mine". Miss Rebecca Ward playing organ accompaniment, and as Miss Ward played the Bridal Chorus from Lohengrin the bridal party entered in the following order: Messrs H. C. Rancke, brother of the bride, of Rockingham, and F. S. V. Lane, brother of the groom, of Dillon, ushers; the groom and his best man, his brother, Mr. J. P. Lane of Dillon; Miss Bessie Lane, sister of the groom, maid of honor, who wore a princess of white batiste and carried a shower bouquet of white carnations; flower children, Lula Norment and Harold Humphrey, Master Harold carrying on his arm a basket of flowers and little Miss Lula scattering rose leaves in the pathway of the bride, who approached the altar, on either side of which the groom and the attendants had arranged themselves, leaning on the arm of her father, Mr. G. E. Rancke, who gave her away. The ceremony was performed by Rev. E. M. Hoyle, pastor of the church, of which the bride is a member, while Miss Ward played "Hearts and flowers." As the party retired from the church Miss Ward played Mendelssohn's Wedding March. The bride was beautifully gowned in a princess of white messeline satin and carried a large shower bouquet of bride's roses tied with white ribbon.

Mr. and Mrs. Lane left on the Seaboard train for Wilmington Tuesday night without informing anyone as to their destination. The train was late and they did not get away until about one o'clock. The bride's going-away dress was a gray tailored gown. The many handsome presents received bear witness to the popularity of the young couple. Mrs. Lane is well known to Robesonian readers, as she worked on this paper some two years ago as local reporter.

Messrs. S. V. and J. P. Lane left Tuesday night for their home in Dillon. Mr. H. C. Rancke left last night for Rockingham. Miss Flora Watson, of Dillon, who came Saturday to attend the wedding, and Miss Bessie Lane will be guests for a week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Humphrey.

WASHINGTON LETTER

News From Our Busy Capital

It is gratifying to learn that Congress is likely to complete the tariff bill by July 1, but it would be infinitely more so to know that it was to be a good bill. There has been much talk in the newspapers, not excluding some of the most prominent Republican publications, of President Taft's vetoing the tariff bill if it did not make good the pledges of the party, but such predictions are gradually subsiding and we fear the President is yielding to the blandishments of Aldrich and the rest of the highbinders in the Senate. From a purely Democratic standpoint it would be gratifying to see the President sign a bill which makes a monkey of the voters and will so far outrage their feelings as to insure the condemnation of the people at the polls. From the broader standpoint of patriotism and philanthropy, in the best sense of the word, however, it will be deplorable if anything resembling the Senate tariff bill is written on the statutes. Whatever the bill may be which Mr. Taft signs it will remain on the statutes for years. This is inevitable. A Democratic majority may be elected to the House but it will be a long time before the political complexion of the Senate can be changed and if the new tariff law robs the consumers for the benefit of certain favored manufacturers that robbery will go on for a long time. Therefore, even at the loss of political advantages, we hope to see the best possible tariff bill enacted. Incidentally, too, we should be sorry to see the President of the United States, regardless of the party which elected him, approve a measure "of perfidy and dishonor" or yield one iota to the men who are blatantly declaring that "there is no consumer."

Senator Bailey of Texas, explaining his vote for a tariff on lumber, said that the Democratic National Convention had no right to declare, in its platform, for free lumber, that such a declaration was an interference with the legislative functions of Democratic Senators and Representatives and that he did not purpose to be bound by the party platform. If a national party convention has no right to bind the party which it represents who has? And if the national platform cannot be taken as an indication of the views and purpose of the party it would be interesting to know what can.

The customs officials are finding all sorts of crookedness in the administration of the New York customs house. The sugar trust smuggling is almost a national scandal and innumerable instances of a minor character have been unearthed. The difficulty in preventing smuggling is that few men believe in their hearts that the government is just when it imposes a tax on imports, and therefore, few have any conscientious scruples about violating the customs laws.

The President has urged John Hays Hammond, the notable mining engineer, to accept the post of Minister to China and Mr. Hammond has refused. Mr. Taft then asked Mr. Hammond to find for him the right man for the place. It is a peculiar commentary that the President should have so much difficulty in filling this place that he has to ask a civilian to find him a man.